

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/JP2005/010737

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G02F1/167

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/030884 A1 (MINAMI MASATO) 13 February 2003 (2003-02-13) paragraph '0040! - paragraph '0041! paragraph '0127! - paragraph '0129! paragraph '0134! paragraph '0142! paragraph '0153! figures 7A,7B -----	1-6,9-11
A	US 2003/231162 A1 (KISHI ETSURO) 18 December 2003 (2003-12-18) paragraph '0002! paragraph '0063! paragraph '0070! paragraph '0135! paragraph '0138! figures 3B,6B-6D,16A,16B -----	1-7,9-11
		-/-

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 September 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/10/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2004/008239 A (BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION; SAKURAI, RYOU; MASUTANI, MAKI; TAZAWA, HARE;) 22 January 2004 (2004-01-22) For the evaluation of this document, the examiner has used its family number EP1542067 -----	1-6,9-11
E	EP 1 542 067 A (BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION) 15 June 2005 (2005-06-15) paragraph '0010! paragraph '0061! - paragraph '0062! paragraph '0068! - paragraph '0069! paragraph '0126! paragraph '0153! figures 2a-2c -----	1-6,9-11
X	WO 03/044596 A (BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION; KITANO, HAJIME; YAKUSHIJI, GAKU; MURATA, KAZU) 30 May 2003 (2003-05-30) For the evaluation of this document, the examiner has used its family number US2005/052402 -----	1-6,9-11
P,X	US 2005/052402 A1 (KITANO HAJIME ET AL) 10 March 2005 (2005-03-10) paragraph '0021! paragraph '0045! paragraph '0136! - paragraph '0137! paragraph '0170! paragraph '0201! figures 2,10 -----	1-6,9-11
A	US 2003/137521 A1 (ZEHNER ROBERT W ET AL) 24 July 2003 (2003-07-24) paragraph '0002! paragraph '0150! -----	10,11

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 8 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 8

- The subject-matter of claim 8 is in contradiction with itself because it claims a first electrode having an area equal to an area of a second electrode, together with the strict comparison "electrode area of first electrode < electrode area of second electrode", and with the other strict comparison "electrode area of first electrode > electrode area of second electrode".

- Subject-matter of claim 8 is also in contradiction with itself because it claims "first distance > second distance" and "first distance < second distance".

Therefore no meaningful search is possible for the subject-matter of claim 8.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

PCT/JP2005/010737

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 2003030884	A1	13-02-2003	JP	2003114452 A		18-04-2003
US 2003231162	A1	18-12-2003	JP	2004020818 A		22-01-2004
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			EP	1542067 A1		15-06-2005
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			WO	2004008239 A1		22-01-2004
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			US	2005052402 A1		10-03-2005
US 2005052402	A1	10-03-2005	AU	2002349702 A1		10-06-2003
			WO	03044596 A1		30-05-2003
US 2003137521	A1	24-07-2003		NONE		